

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04  
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APPROVED BY SECRETARY VANCE  
DOL:ILAB:HSAMUEL  
M/DGP:HGBARNES  
S/S:PTARNOFF  
M:BHREAD

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R 180016Z JUL 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS

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TO AMBASSADORS FROM SECRETARIES VANCE AND MARSHALL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, APER

SUBJECT: LABOR ATTACHES - THE 35TH YEAR

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE ASSIGNED  
FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS AS THE FIRST LABOR ATTACHES IN  
OUR MISSIONS ABROAD. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF POST-WAR  
EXPANSION WITHIN THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF A LABOR ATTACHE  
CORPS HAS REFLECTED THE GROWING POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND  
ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF LABOR THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

DURING THE EARLY POST-WORLD WAR II YEARS, TRADE UNIONS  
PLAYED A FUNDAMENTAL ROLE IN THE REBUILDING OF A FREE AND  
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DEMOCRATIC EUROPE IN THE FACE OF SEVERE EXTERNAL PRESSURES  
FROM THE SOVIET BLOC. IN A NUMBER OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES,  
TRADE UNIONS BECAME A POWERFUL FORCE IN THE NATION-BUILD-  
ING PROCESS.

TODAY, WORKING MEN AND WOMEN--THROUGH THEIR TRADE UNION

ORGANIZATIONS OR LABOR-BASED POLITICAL PARTIES--EXERT CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE IN MOST INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AND MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THESE LABOR PARTIES HAVE VARIOUSLY FORMED GOVERNMENTS, RANGING FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO SINGAPORE, CONSTITUTED IMPORTANT ELEMENTS IN COALITION GOVERNMENTS, AND SERVED AS KEY OPPOSITION PARTIES. EVEN IN COUNTRIES WITH TOTALITARIAN AND AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES, WORKERS' VIEWS AND PRESSURES FOR SOCIAL CHANGE INFLUENCE THE POLICIES AND ACTION OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS. MOREOVER, IN AN INCREASING NUMBER OF COUNTRIES THE REAFFIRMATION BY THE U.S. AND OTHER DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES OF SUPPORT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT OF WORKERS TO ORGANIZE AND BARGAIN COLLECTIVELY, IS REKINDLING NEW HOPES FOR LIBERALIZATION AND IN CERTAIN CASES HAS INSPIRED THE REVERSAL OF SOME OF THE WORST OPPRESSIVE PRACTICES.

THE U.S. CONGRESS HAS REPEATEDLY DECLARED, IN THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT, AS AMENDED, THAT AIDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF FREE AND DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNIONS IS AN OBJECTIVE OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY. LABOR IS A KEY DETERMINANT IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROCESS. REDUCING UNEMPLOYMENT, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME CONTROLLING THE INFLATIONARY SPIRAL, HAS BEEN A MAJOR GOAL OF ALL COUNTRIES. IN MANY OF THEM, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN THE THIRD WORLD, DEVELOPMENT IS FREQUENTLY IMPEDED BY SHORTAGES OF SKILLED LABOR OR THE LACK OF

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TECHNICAL EXPERTISE--RANGING FROM LABOR STATISTICS AND DISPUTE SETTLEMENTS TO SAFETY PROGRAMS. U.S. LABOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AIMED AT PROVIDING NEEDED TRAINING ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE EFFORT.

THE U.S. NOT ONLY SHARES WITH OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES THE VITAL NEED TO RESOLVE THE TENSION BETWEEN CHANGING EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS AND ECONOMIC STABILITY, BUT ALSO SUPPORTS THE GOAL OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, A MAJOR CONCERN OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. MOREOVER, FROM THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE PIONEERED IN PROGRAMS OF SOCIAL INNOVATION, A NUMBER OF OUR OWN DOMESTIC AGENCIES SUCH AS THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE SEEK EXAMPLES WHICH MIGHT BE EMPLOYED IN RESOLVING SOME OF OUR OWN PRESSING DOMESTIC SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. THE GROWING IMPACT OF IMPORTS ON

AMERICAN EMPLOYMENT HAS FOCUSSED SPECIAL ATTENTION ON THE LABOR STANDARDS OF FOREIGN WORKERS WHO PRODUCE THE GOODS EXPORTED TO THE U.S.

IN A CLOSELY INTERDEPENDENT WORLD, WHERE POLITICAL AND

ECONOMIC ISSUES ARE INEXTRICABLY LINKED, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT OUR MISSIONS BE SERVED BY QUALIFIED PERSONNEL WHO BY REASON OF THEIR TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE CAN PROPERLY OBSERVE, INTERPRET, AND ASSESS DEVELOPMENTS ABROAD IN THE FIELDS OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT.

THE LABOR ATTACHE IS, IN EFFECT THE SPECIALIZED INSTRUMENT THROUGH WHICH THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE FOREIGN SERVICE ASSURE THAT THE LABOR ASPECTS OF OUR FOREIGN POLICIES ARE ADEQUATELY TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. IN ADDITION TO REPORTING FOREIGN LABOR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE, LABOR, HEW, AND OTHER AGENCIES, THE LABOR ATTACHE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROMOTING A FULL AND PROPER UNDERSTANDING OF AMERICAN LABOR INSTITUTIONS, CON-

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DITIONS, AND DEVELOPMENTS, AS WELL AS U.S. OVERALL CONCERNS, BY FOREIGN LABOR AND OTHER GROUPS. THE LABOR ATTACHE THEREBY SEEKS TO DEVELOP UNDERSTANDING OF AND SUPPORT FOR BASIC U.S. FOREIGN POLICY GOALS AS THEY RELATE TO LABOR MATTERS.

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AS A MEMBER OF THE COUNTRY TEAM, THE LABOR ATTACHE ADVISES THE AMBASSADOR AND OTHER EMBASSY OFFICIALS ON ALL SIGNIFICANT LABOR MATTERS AND - ON BEHALF OF THE AMBASSADOR - COORDINATES U.S. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, INFORMATION, AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS IN THE LABOR FIELD. THE ATTACHE PROVIDES TO AMERICAN TRADE UNION OFFICIALS, BUSINESSMEN, LABOR EDUCATORS, STUDENTS, JOURNALISTS, AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS VISITING ABROAD INFORMATION AND ADVICE ON FOREIGN LABOR MATTERS AS WELL AS ASSISTANCE IN MEETING APPROPRIATE LABOR CONTACTS.

IN FULFILLING THESE RESPONSIBILITIES, OUR LABOR DIPLOMATS MAKE A UNIQUE AND VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO AMERICAN FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICIES. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND OTHER INTERESTED AGENCIES IS FOCUSING ON WAYS IN WHICH POSTS AND THE LABOR ATTACHES CAN RESPOND MORE EFFECTIVELY TO THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED TO THE LABOR AND LABOR-RELATED COMMUNITIES. IN ADDITION TO THE MEASURES UNDERWAY IN WASHINGTON, WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE SUPPORT OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS, FROM THE AMBASSADOR ON DOWN, IS ESSENTIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE LABOR ATTACHE'S EFFORTS IN SUPPORT OF OVERALL U.S. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES. UNQUOTE. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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